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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1A
SUBJECT	Medical Information, Sofia	DATE DISTR.	15 Sept. 1953	
		NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.		25X1C	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		25X1A

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SOURCE:

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1. There are 22 clinics in Sofia, as compared to seven in 1946. Each of the six districts has three or four clinics treating about 20,000 persons apiece. The medical staff varies in each clinic, some clinics having as many as 20 doctors while others have only five or six. Although there are specialists for internal diseases, pediatrics, and surgery in every clinic, some lack departments for ophthalmic, ear, and nervous diseases.
2. Sofia is divided into a number of small districts, of three or four streets each, and every district has its own doctor (Rayonen Lekar) who is responsible for between 3,000 and 6,000 inhabitants. Only physicians working in clinics must visit patients at their homes; other district doctors are exempt from this duty.
3. A person in need of special treatment is allowed to consult a specialist in the district clinic without prior authorization from his district doctor. In cases when such a specialist is available only in another district, authorization must first be received from that district.
4. Until 1951, only workers and their families were entitled to receive treatment and medicines free of charge, upon presentation of an employment card (Rabotnicheska Knizhka), but now the clinics are open to everyone. Treatment is free, but medicines are purchased in pharmacies against a doctor's prescription. Hospitalization, including free medicines, is available to all the population upon presentation of a recommendation from either the district physician or one of the clinic doctors. The former Red Cross Hospital is used for emergency cases. Transportation in ambulances is free.
5. Each ministry originally had its own dispensary, but these were closed in 1951, with the exception of military dispensaries, the dispensary of the Ministry of Interior, a clinic for students attached to the Ministry of Public Education, and clinics in large industrial enterprises. The Pravitelstvena Bolnitsa (formerly the Jewish Hospital) is reserved for ministers and senior government officials.

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6. There is an acute shortage of streptomycin. Penicillin of Soviet, American, and other foreign manufacture, even though available in ample supply, can be obtained only upon presentation of a prescription signed by two doctors. PAS (Para-Amino Salicylate) is received by tuberculosis patients only upon presentation of a doctor's prescription. Antibiotics are used only in hospitals. Informant knew of no medicine named "Dibazol."
7. The population is immunized annually against contagious diseases. Children are also vaccinated against smallpox. Since 1949, all citizens up to 30 years of age have been given the opportunity of undergoing a Calmette test (sic).
8. There are short courses for the training of medical personnel. A school for nurses is attached to every large hospital, the largest with several hundred students being that of the former Red Cross Hospital. Candidates must have a secondary school education, but in special cases persons with as little as five or six years of schooling are admitted. The standard of training is very high. There is a school for midwives attached to the Maichin Dom (Maternity Home).
9. A school for laboratory assistants is located at No. 3 Zhdanov Street in Sofia. It has a 2-year course for students with only a primary education and a 1-year course for persons with secondary schooling. The latter course consists of eight hours daily; the four morning hours are devoted to general and medical subjects, and the four afternoon hours are used for practical work in hospital laboratories. Approximately 160 students are graduated from this course annually.

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